

## **AND GOD SAYS . . .**

**Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church**

I am sitting in a booth at the Jackson County Fair listening to my granddaughter telling another little girl the “Wordless Book” story. She is using beads of different colors to make a bracelet that illustrate the story. The little girl is very attentive and interested. It appears that it is a story she has not really heard before. To me, this is sad because it the story of Jesus and how he died to take our punishment on Himself so that He could cover us with His righteousness and save us from hell if we would only ask Him.

It is also sad because in a country that has the greatest religious liberty in the world, a growing number of people have never heard the story and, in fact, do not even want to hear it. It is not a mere indifference to Christianity but a growing hostility toward it. Yet it is the greatest story ever told, it offers the greatest hope ever given, and most inclusive offer ever made.

It is the greatest story ever told. I know of no other religion, no other myth, or no other story that tells of God becoming man, to sacrifice Himself for His creation—that is, mankind. For God has revealed to us that He “so loved the world [mankind] that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

It offers the greatest hope ever given. The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy spirit writes, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18-19). Christ offers us an eternal inheritance in the presence of God and the power to live a new life in Christ. Is there any greater hope than that?

It is the most inclusive offer ever made. God offers us “... everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him [Jesus Christ] who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3-4). It’s all bought and paid for through Jesus Christ. All we need to do is receive it. Have you done so yet?